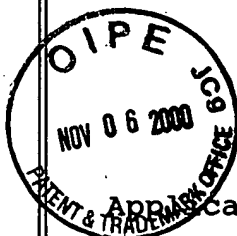


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Application of :
Manabu OUMI et al. :
Serial No. 09/462,437 :
Filed: May 16, 2000 : Group Art Unit - 2753
For: NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL HEAD : Docket No. S004-3848 (PCT)
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Gibbs
D. Fair
Leg. Sec.
B. P. C.

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, DC 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

In order to place this application in better condition for a complete examination on the merits, applicants preliminarily amend their application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

PAGE 1:

After the Title, Line 2, change "This" to --The present--;

Line 3, change "that" to --in which--;

Line 4, insert --the design of-- after "to";

Line 5, change "typically" to --such as-- and insert --drive-- after "disk";

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MAILING CERTIFICATE
ON REVERSE SIDE
OF LAST PAGE